

WAUKESHA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

November 15, 2011

In Attendance:

Michael Grulke, Traffic Engineer; Highway Commissioner Representative
Captain Erik Kehl; City of Delafield Police Department Representative
Police Specialist Steven Kraus; City of Waukesha Police Department Representative
Lieutenant Larry LaFavor; Chairman, Traffic Safety Coordinator
Trooper Steve Lindemann; Wisconsin State Patrol
Ms. Andrea Loeffelholz; DOT Bureau of Transportation Safety
Stacey Pierce, Traffic Engineer; Wisconsin DOT Highway Engineering Representative
Lieutenant Kenneth Pileggi; Village of Mukwonago Police Department Representative
Sergeant Steve Rudie; Menomonee Falls Police Department Representative

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Traffic Safety Commission Chairman Lieutenant Larry LaFavor at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Ms. Andrea Loeffelholz, from the Department Of Transportation Bureau of Transportation Safety, made a motion to approve the minutes; and Specialist Steven Kraus, from the City of Waukesha Police Department, seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A letter was received from a citizen who lives in the Village of Summit, who was writing about her concern regarding safety at the intersection of Highway 67 and Genesee Lake Road. Her concern was due to an accident which occurred at that intersection on 10-11-11. Stacey Pierce, from the Wisconsin Department Of Transportation, stated a five year crash diagram of data was completed. It showed that there were more crashes north and south of that intersection rather than at the intersection itself. She stated the crash rate for the vicinity of that intersection is low. Lieutenant LaFavor stated that he would write a response back to the citizen.

OLD BUSINESS

Trooper Steve Lindemann again brought up a question asked at the last Traffic Safety meeting by Sergeant Mark Tushaus, from the City of Brookfield Police Department, asking if there was any information given out as to how to use the Department Of Transportation Interstate on-ramp closing gates. Sergeant Steve Rudie, from the Menomonee Falls Police Department, suggested the State Traffic Operations may have information. Trooper Lindemann stated that he will follow-up by contacting them.

TRAFFIC SAFETY LEGISLATION REPORT

Ms. Andrea Loeffelholz stated that legislation has recessed. Several bills have recently passed reference oversized loads. She also brought up the topic of Assembly Bill 40, which reads, "If a defendant is required to appear in court, in addition to any forfeiture, costs, fees, or surcharges it imposes, the court shall impose and collect from the defendant any costs charged to or paid by a law enforcement agency for the withdrawal of the defendant's blood..."

Andrea Loeffelholz also stated there were 12 fatalities in Waukesha County compared to 15 from last year. This has been a continual drop from previous years, however, pedestrian and bicycle fatalities are increasing.

The grants have been handed out for 2012. In addition, the Bureau Of Transportation Safety was requesting information from Waukesha County if they were going to start up the P.A.R.C. Program again.

The Wisconsin Safety Coordinator's Association Meeting was held. They are currently developing a website and the manual is being rewritten.

Andrea Loeffelholz will be sending out an e-mail to all of the commission members and attaching the Wisconsin County/City Traffic Safety Commission Guidelines. She has also sent out numerous e-mails to all of the committee members containing pertinent information such as: 2010 Crash Statistics; State Patrol Laws of the Month; Guidelines for conducting TSC Meetings; 1990-2009 Drivers in Crashes by Age; and 2010 Fatal Crashes and Persons Killed by County.

ELECTION

Lieutenant L. LaFavor nominated Lieutenant Kenneth Pileggi, from the Village of Mukwonago Police Department, as Vice-President of the Traffic Safety Commission. Trooper Steve Lindemann, from the Wisconsin State Patrol, seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

❖ Highway Commission

Michael Grulke questioned as to why it seems there is an increase in drivers traveling the wrong way in their lane of traffic. Stacey Pierce, Traffic Engineer from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, stated many instances were due to drivers being impaired. Lieutenant Kenneth Pileggi stated many drivers also had health conditions. Stacey Pierce stated she will check the signage reference the accident on 11-05-11. Trooper Steve Lindemann stated other states have installed sensors which show traffic that is going in the wrong direction. Squads then are able to be dispatched immediately. Michael Grulke asked if Stacey Pierce could look into ghost lines markings on the roadway on I-94 eastbound on Highway 16 into I-94 in front of Peterbilt. The Department Of Transportation will also be looking into rumble strips on center medians and also on rural two-lane highways.

HIGH CRASH LOCATIONS / FATALS

➡ Chairman Larry LaFavor reported that the Waukesha Sheriff's Department had two fatalities, as follows:

● Date of Accident: 09-24-11

Location: Westbound Highway 16 & Jungbluth Road

A single motorcycle operator was traveling 434 feet on the gravel shoulder on Highway 16, before he lost control, flipped over and rolled into the median. The 50-year-old male operator was thrown from his 2007 Harley Davidson, receiving major head injuries and ultimately resulting in his death. The operator was not wearing a helmet. Alcohol was a contributing factor in the accident.

● Date of Accident: 11-05-11

Location: E/B I-94 & Maple Avenue

This crash was a double fatal accident that occurred in the Town of Delafield. The drivers were the sole occupants in both vehicles. A 2004 red Chrysler Sebring convertible was traveling westbound in the eastbound lanes of I-94 from Redford Blvd. The Chrysler was being operated by a 44-year-old female. A 2007 blue Chevrolet Impala was traveling eastbound and was struck head-on by the Chrysler. The Chevrolet was being operated by a 41-year-old male who was trapped in his vehicle after the accident by the driver's door being stuck. The female in the Chrysler was also trapped in her vehicle. Both drivers were pronounced dead at the scene. Alcohol was a factor in the operation of the driver of the Sebring.

NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING SCHEDULED

The next meeting of the Waukesha County Traffic Safety Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2012, at 2:00 p.m., at the City of Waukesha Police Department.

ADJOURNMENT

Lieutenant Larry LaFavor, Chairman of the Traffic Safety Commission made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Ms. Andrea Loeffelholz, from the Department Of Transportation Bureau of Transportation Safety. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Gregesich
Waukesha County Sheriff's Department

(MINUTES APPROVED ON 02-21-11)